

3600.2406
October 3, 2006 (8:40am)

Docket: AM-2406

REMARKS

Claims 21-50 and 54-57 remain in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 27-29, 36-43, 55, and 56 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hsu (U.S. Patent 5,589,039) in view of Miyata (U.S. Patent 5,519,373).

However, the Examiner states that claim 27 would be allowed if "parallel" would be amended to "more parallel". As the Examiner recognized, this further limitation was intended to be included in the prior amendment but was erroneously omitted. Claim 27 has been amended as graciously suggested.

Applicants do not understand the rejection of claim 41 since the claim recites "a magnetic field extending horizontally along said support surface." Nonetheless, this claim has been amended somewhat similarly to claim 27 so as to exclude reading this field upon a region infinitely far from the support surface. Now the field must extend horizontally both along and parallel to the support surface.

The Examiner has rejected claims 30 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hsu and Miyata and further in view of Boys et al. (U.S. Patent 4,500,409). The Examiner has rejected claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hsu in view of Miyata and further in view of Tepman (U.S. Patent 5,380,414). These claims however depend from either claim 27 or claim 41 and should therefore also be allowable.

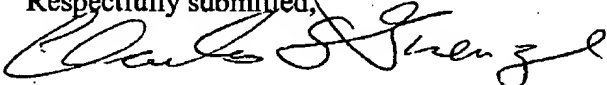
The Examiner has allowed claims 21-26, 31-35, 45, 46, 48-50, 54, and 57.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes an interview would be beneficial, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number, which is on California time.

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Respectfully submitted,

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